

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01

TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 SAM-01

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STR:BSTEINBOCK

AGRIC:WDOERING

TREAS:POSUCHMAN

TREAS/ATF:RDOUGHERTY

COMM:DSCHLECHTY

----- 101454

R 240317Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EEC, ETRD

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SUBJECT: US/EC CONSULTATIONS ON WINE

REF: EC BRUSSELS 01385

1. BECAUSE OF SCHEDULING CONFLICTS AND TIME NECESSARY FOR CONSULTATIONS OUTSIDE U.S. GOVERNMENT ON VARIETAL ISSUE, U.S. UNABLE TO SET A MARCH DATE AS PROPOSED IN REFTEL FOR US/EC WINE CONSULTATIONS. BEGINNING OF MARCH TOO EARLY TO ALLOW FOR PROPER PREPARATION, GIVEN COMMISSION'S LATEST DETERMINATION REGARDING SOME U.S. GRAPE VARIETIES. IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO CONSULT WITH INDUSTRY AND ACADEMIC EXPERTS ON THIS MATTER. AT THE END OF MARCH, THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS WILL BE PREPARING FOR HEARINGS ON GEOGRAPHIC APPELLATIONS IN SAN FRANCISCO AND WASHINGTON, D.C., APRIL 13 AND 20 RESPECTIVELY. (DEPARTMENT WILL NOTIFY INTERESTED POSTS WHEN NOTICE OF HEARING IS PUBLISHED). WE WOULD, THEREFORE, PROPOSE FIRST OR SECOND WEEK IN MAY FOR CONSULTATIONS AND MISSION REQUESTED TO INFORMALLY SUGGEST THIS TO EC AND REPORT REACTION.

2. U.S. APPRECIATES EC EFFORTS TO EXPEDITE RESOLUTION OF U.S. GRAPE VARIETIES ISSUE BUT MISSION SHOULD REITERATE THAT PROBLEM WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO BE RESOLVED WITHIN

FRAMEWORK OF CONSULTATIONS. U.S. ENVISIONS THIS TOPIC TO BE A MAJOR ONE AT NEXT WASHINGTON MEETING. POSITION ON HYBRID VARIETIES IS THAT SINCE ALL WINES PRODUCED IN U.S. HAVE SOME LIKLIHOOD OF EXPORT, NONE SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM EC LIST. HYBRID VARIETIES, USE OF TERM QUOTE VELTE-LINER, END QUOTE AND EC SYNONYM SUGGESTIONS CAN BE EXPLORED IN MORE DETAIL DURING CONSULTATIONS.

3. MISSION SHOULD ALSO STRESS TO COMMISSION THAT U.S. HAS UNDERSTOOD FROM PREVIOUS REPRESENTATIONS THAT LIST OF ACCEPTABLE U.S. GRAPE VARIETIES WHICH IS TO BE PUBLISHED SHORTLY, IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO ADDITIONS. WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE A STATEMENT TO THAT EFFECT PUBLISHED ALONG WITH LIST. INGERSOLL

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